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FOOD & WINE

What to Buy from Napa Valley's 'Open the Cellar' Sale, According to Our Wine Editor

The Napa Valley Vintners Association is hosting a huge online wine sale of rare bottles. Here's what Ray Isle says you should buy.

BY RAY ISLE

Photo: EDSEL QUERINI/GETTY IMAGES

The response to the non-profit Napa Valley Vintners organization's ongoing-through-tonight-only "Open the Cellar" sale has been tremendous, but there are still plenty of amazing wines left to pick up before the sale ends. With wineries closed in the Valley but still trying to keep tasting room workers employed and on staff, this is a good way to help out folks in the wine world and at the same time end up with a few bottles you'd never be able to find otherwise. And since we're all drinking a lot of wine right now, that seems like an excellent thing. Being executive wine editor for Food & Wine, I figured it might help people out if I scoped through the offerings—there are several hundred—and pulled out a few that I personally think are truly unusual and interesting (or just great), at a range of price levels.

2003 Chateau Montelena Estate Cabernet Sauvignon

The current vintage of this classic Napa producer's estate Cabernet runs $175, so picking up a bottle with 17 years of age on it for $75 bucks more is well worth the additional money.